United States Department of Agriculture
Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration
Federal Grain Inspection Service

Program Notice

FGIS PN-02-11 **12/02/02**

STINKBUG DAMAGE DETERMINATION

1. PURPOSE

This notice transmits an alternate procedure for determining stinkbug damage in soybeans.

2. EFFECTIVE DATE

This alternate procedure is effective upon receipt on an interim basis (one year) to determine if the procedure improves inspection efficiency.

3. BACKGROUND

Current instructions require official inspection personnel to cross-section those soybeans that appear to be stinkbug damage to determine if the soybean is damaged. Stinkbug damage soybeans are currently determined from the same 125-gram portion as other damages, but weighed separately from other damage types and reported at one-forth the actual percentage rate. Upon completion of this computation, the percent stinkbug and other damage is combined and reported as damaged kernels total (DKT).

The Federal Grain Inspection Service (FGIS) is evaluating an alternate procedure to determine stinkbug damage to assess if the procedure improves inspection efficiency. FGIS has determined the alternate procedure will provide results similar to the current procedure while simplifying the mathematical calculation and reducing the number of soybeans analyzed.

4. PROCEDURE

Official inspection personnel determine soybean damage on a portion of approximately 125 grams. The alternate stinkbug damage kernel analysis requires two sub-portions for analysis. One portion is approximately 94 grams and the other portion is approximately 31 grams.

a. Analyze for all types of damage, including stinkbug damage, on the 31-gram sub-portion.

b. Analyze for all types of damage, other than stinkbug damage, on the 94-gram sub-portion.

c. Combine and weigh the damage separations from both sub-portions to determine damaged soybeans.

Since the stinkbug weight is based on one-fourth of the sample, no additional mathematical adjustment is needed.

5. QUESTIONS

Please direct any questions to the Policies and Procedures Branch at (202) 720-0252.

/s/ David Orr

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